



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,410	02/07/2002	Udo Bickers	514413-3911	1061
20999	7590	03/04/2009	EXAMINER	
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151				PRYOR, ALTON NATHANIEL
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1616				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/04/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/049,410	BICKERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALTON N. PRYOR	1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 33-58 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 33-58 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Previous rejections not recited in this office action have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 33,34,37-43,45-49,52,53,55-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levitt et al (USPN 4371391; 2/1/83). Levitt et al teach herbicidal compositions comprising a benzenesulfonamide herbicide plus polyacrylic acid thickener (column 46 Example 10) or silica aerogel (column 47 Example 14). Levitt et al suggest the addition of another herbicide such as paraquat (column 48 line 59-column 60 line 14) to the composition. Levitt et al teach a method of applying the composition to plants for the control of unwanted vegetation. Levitt et al do not exemplify an invention comprising a benzenesulfonamide plus polyacrylic acid thickener or silica gel plus paraquat. However, it would have been obvious to make such an invention. One would have been motivated to do this since Levitt et al suggest the combination of said ingredients.

Claims 33-38,40,42-52,54,56-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bieringer et al (USPN 6159900; 12/12/00) and Frisch et al (USPN

4853026; 8/1/89). Bieringer et al teach herbicidal compositions comprising a herbicide such as paraquat plus an alkyl polyglycol ether sulfate plus optional actives such as fertilizers and/or insecticides (abstract, claim 1). Bieringer et al teach a method of applying the composition to plants for the control of unwanted vegetation (claim 9). Bieringer et al do not exemplify an invention comprising paraquat plus alkyl polyglycol ether sulfate plus optional fertilizers and/or insecticides. However, it would have been obvious to make such an invention. One would have been motivated to do this since Bieringer et al suggest the combination of said ingredients. Bieringer et al also does not teach an invention comprising glufosinate. However, Frisch et al teach a herbicidal compositions comprising glufosinate plus an alkylphenol polyglycol ether (abstract, claim 1). It would have been obvious to modify the invention taught by Bieringer et al to include the glufosinate taught by Frisch et al. One would have been motivated to do this since both inventions individually are to herbicides.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to

be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 33-36,38,40,45-51,54,56-58 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1,2,8,21 and 25 of U.S. Patent No. 6770594. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because USPN makes claim to a composition comprising agrochemical active substance. In the specification at column 7 lines 5-24 it is recited that the active can be glufosinate and/or glyphosate. In the specification at column 10 line 63- column 11 line 16 it is recited that the active can be bialaphos.

Glufosinate, glyphosate and bialaphos are post-emergent herbicides. USPN at column 16 lines 24-59 discloses that the herbicide can be placed onto adsorptive materials such as clays and polyacrylates. USPN claims that post-emergent herbicides can be applied pre-emergently. Although USPN claims make instant invention obvious the USPN claims are of different scope than instant claims. For example, USPN requires a silicone surfactant, whereas instant claims do not require the silicone surfactant.

Response to Applicants' Argument

Applicants argue that USPN '594 refers to herbicidal active substances in combination with a surfactant other than a silicone surfactant and one or more humectants. The Examiner argues that USPN '594 makes claim to a composition comprising a herbicide plus a surfactant in claim 1. In column 7 lines 5-24 USPN '594 teaches that the herbicide can be of the glufosinate type and in column 13 lines 45-55 USPN '594 teaches that the surfactant can be an alkyl polyglycol ether sulfate. The

combination of glufosinate plus alkyl polyglycol ether sulfate makes the instant claims obvious.

Claims 33-36,38,40,45-51,54,56-58 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1,3 and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6693063. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because USPN makes claim to a composition comprising agrochemical active substance. In the specification at column 18 lines 51-67 it is recited that the active can be glufosinate and/or glyphosate. In the specification at column 25 lines 14-44 it is recited that the active can be bialaphos. Glufosinate, glyphosate and bialaphos are post-emergent herbicides. USPN at column 25 lines 39-41 discloses that the herbicide can be placed onto adsorptive materials such as clays and polyacrylates. USPN claims that post-emergent herbicides can be applied pre-emergently. Although USPN claims make instant invention obvious the USPN claims are of different scope than instant claims. For example, USPN requires at least a 12 alkylene oxide unit containing surfactant, whereas instant claims do not require the said surfactant.

Response to Applicants' Argument

Applicants argue that USPN '063 refers to 1,3-halo-2-alkoxy-5-cyano-phenyl compounds as herbicidal active substances in combination with a surfactant comprising 12 alkylene oxide units as structural element. The Examiner argues that USPN '063 makes claim to a composition comprising 1,3-halo-2-alkoxy-5-cyano-phenyl compounds and a surfactant in claim 1 and additionally comprising a further component selected

from an agrochemically active compound in claim 3. In column 18 lines 55-67 USPN '063 teaches that the further agrochemically active compound is glufosinate and in column 10 lines 40-62 USPN '063 teaches that the surfactant can be an fatty alcohol polyglycol ether sulfate. The combination of glufosinate plus fatty alcohol polyglycol ether sulfate makes the instant claims obvious.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Telephonic Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alton N. Pryor whose telephone number is 571-272-0621. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alton N. Pryor/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616